

fixing said at least one image attached on said one surface of said at least one recording sheet; and

stacking said recording sheet in an orientation in accordance with whether said face-down stack or said face-up stack was chosen in said choosing step; and

repeating said executing step until said at least one image input by said inputting step are recorded.

100. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 99, wherein said inputting step reads said at least one original and generates data of said at least one image.

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#### **REMARKS**

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present preliminary amendment and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-100 remain pending in this application, claims 1-100 having been amended by the present preliminary amendment.

Applicants have provided a substitute specification and marked-up copy of the original specification for clarity to correct minor typographical, grammatical, and/or idiomatic errors. Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification does not add new matter.

Claims 1-100 have been amended for clarity. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1-100 do not add new matter. Applicants also respectfully submit that amended claims 2-20 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 1 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 1 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish amended claims 2-20. Applicants also respectfully submit that amended claims 22-49 are either directly or indirectly dependent

upon amended claim 21 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 21 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish amended claims 22-49. Applicants also respectfully submit that amended claims 51-69 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 50 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 50 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish amended claims 51-69. Applicants also respectfully submit that amended claims 71-98 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 70 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 70 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish amended claims 71-98. Applicants also respectfully submit that amended claim 100 is directly dependent upon amended claim 99 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 99 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish amended claim 100. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended claims 1-100.

In view of the present amendment, claims 1-100 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first image carrying member configured to carry [images] at least one image transferred from at least one original in increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers;

a second image carrying member configured to carry [an image] said at least one image transferred from said first image carrying member to at least one recording sheet;

a plurality of ejection trays including a first ejection tray configured to stack [a plurality of output sheets] said recording at least one recording sheet, which is output in a straight or forward orientation, and a second ejection tray configured to stack [a plurality of output sheets] said at least one recording sheet, which is output in a reversed orientation; and

a sheet transferring mechanism configured to transfer [a] said at least one recording sheet to a nip formed between said first and second image carrying members, wherein said first image carrying member [is caused to transfer an] transfers a first image of said at least one image to [one] a first surface of said at least one recording sheet and, [at the same time] simultaneously, said second image carrying member [is caused to transfer another] transfers a second image of said at least one image to [another] a second surface of said at least one recording sheet in response to a selection [between] of either said first [and] ejection tray or said second ejection [trays] tray in a [double-side] double-sided recording mode so that either said first [and] ejection tray or said second ejection [trays stack] tray stacks said [plurality of] at least one recording [sheets] sheet in increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

2. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 1, further comprising a mode selecting mechanism configured to select [one of] ~~either~~ a [single-side] ~~single-sided~~ recording mode [and] ~~or~~ said [double-side] ~~double-sided~~ recording mode.

3. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 1, further comprising a tray selecting mechanism configured to select [one of] ~~either~~ said first [and] ~~ejection tray or said~~ second ejection [trays] ~~tray~~.

4. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 1, further comprising a sheet selecting mechanism configured to select a ~~sheet~~ type [of] ~~for said~~ ~~at least one recording~~ sheet, and wherein [one of] ~~either~~ said first [and] ~~ejection tray or said~~ second ejection [trays] ~~tray~~ is selected in accordance with a selection made [by] ~~via~~ said sheet selecting mechanism.

5. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 1, further comprising a plurality of sheet supplying [mechanism] ~~mechanisms~~, ~~wherein~~ each ~~sheet supplying mechanism of said plurality of sheet supplying mechanisms~~ is configured to supply [the] ~~said at least one~~ recording [sheets] ~~sheet~~ to said sheet transferring mechanism.

6. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 5, further comprising a cassette selecting mechanism configured to select ~~any~~ one of said plurality of sheet supplying [mechanism] ~~mechanisms~~.

7. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 5, further comprising a sheet selecting mechanism configured to select a ~~sheet~~ type [of] ~~for said~~ ~~at least one recording~~ sheet, [and] wherein ~~any~~ one of said plurality of sheet supplying [mechanism] ~~mechanisms~~ is selected in accordance with a selection made [by] ~~via~~ said sheet selecting mechanism.

8. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 1, further comprising an extra sheet supplying mechanism configured to insert a first recording sheet of said at least one recording sheet in an approximately straight or forward orientation, and wherein [a] said first recording sheet is transferred from said extra sheet supplying mechanism to said first ejection tray via said sheet transferring mechanism.

9. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 8, further comprising a sheet selecting mechanism configured to select a sheet type [of] for said at least one recording sheet, and wherein said extra sheet supplying mechanism and said first ejection tray are selected when said sheet selecting mechanism selects said sheet type [of] for said at least one recording [sheets] sheet to be a relatively thick sheet.

10. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 8, wherein said extra sheet supplying mechanism includes a manual sheet insertion tray.

11. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 10, further comprising a sensor for detecting an event [in that] wherein said manual sheet insertion tray is accessed by a user, and wherein said extra sheet supplying mechanism and said first ejection tray are selected when said sensor detects said event.

12. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 1, wherein said first image carrying member [is caused to transfer an] transfers said first image of said at least one image [of] from an odd-numbered page of said at least one original to an upper surface of a first recording sheet of said at least one recording sheet and, [at the same time] simultaneously, said second [ejection tray is caused to transfer an] image carrying member transfers said second image of said at least one image from of even-numbered page [on] of said at least one original to a lower surface of said at least one recording sheet when said second ejection tray is selected in [a double-side] said double-sided recording mode so

that said second ejection tray stacks [a plurality of] said at least one recording [sheets] sheet in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

13. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 3, wherein said first image carrying member [is caused to transfer an] transfers said first image of said at least one image to [on one] said first surface of said at least one recording sheet and said second image carrying member [is caused to transfer another] transfers said second image of said at least one image [on another] to said second surface of said at least one recording sheet in response to a selection made by said tray selecting mechanism [between] of either said first [and] ejection tray or said second ejection [trays] tray.

14. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 2, [wherein said mode selecting mechanism is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said mode selecting mechanism is mounted.

15. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 3, [wherein said tray selecting mechanism is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said tray selecting mechanism is mounted.

16. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 4, [wherein said sheet selecting mechanism is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said sheet selecting mechanism is mounted.

17. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 6, [wherein said cassette selecting mechanism is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said cassette selecting mechanism is mounted.

18. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 1, [wherein selections of a single-side recording mode and said double-side recording mode, said first and second ejection trays, and a type of sheet are made from an] further comprising

external host system wherein selections are made between a single-sided recording mode and said double-sided recording mode, said first and second ejection trays, and a sheet type of said at least one recording sheet.

19. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 5, [wherein a selection of said plurality of sheet supplying mechanisms is made from] further comprising an external host system which selects between said plurality of sheet supplying mechanisms.

20. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 1, wherein said first image carrying member [has] is a [property of photoconductivity and] photoconductive drum which carries said at least one image in the form of a toner image in accordance with an electrophotographic method and said second image carrying member carries [a] said at least one image in the form of said toner image transferred from said first image carrying member.

21. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
an image reading mechanism configured to read [an original] at least one image from at least one original;

an image [forming] recording mechanism configured to perform [an] image recording [operation] operations including image forming, image carrying, and image transferring processes so that said at least one image read from said at least one original is recorded onto at least one recording sheet;

a plurality of ejection trays into which said at least one recording sheet is ejected;

a plurality of sheet cassettes in which said at least one recording sheet is stacked prior to being used in said image recording operations; and



a sheet transferring mechanism configured to transfer [a] said at least one recording sheet from one of said plurality of sheet cassettes to a nip formed between [said] first and second image carrying members, wherein said image [forming] recording mechanism performs said image recording [operation] operations in response to a selection [between] of one of said plurality of ejection trays in accordance with [images] said at least one image read from [originals] said at least one original read [by] via said image reading mechanism in either a [single-side] single-sided recording mode or [double-side] a double-sided recording mode so that said at least one recording sheet is stacked in an increasing order of page numbers in said one of said plurality of ejection trays [stack a stack of recording sheets in increasing order of pages] which was selected.

22. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image [forming] recording mechanism forms said at least one image in the form of a toner image in accordance with an electrophotographic method[ and comprises], said image recording mechanism comprising:

[a] said first image carrying member configured to form [a] said toner image and to carry [it] said toner image thereon in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers starting from a first page; and

[a] said second image carrying member configured to carry [the] said toner image transferred from said first image carrying member, said first image carrying member transferring [the] said toner image to [one] a first side of [a] said at least one recording sheet and said second image carrying member transferring [the] said toner image to [the other] a second side of [the] said at least one recording sheet.

23. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said plurality of ejection trays includes a first ejection tray configured to stack [a

plurality of] said at least one recording sheet output [sheets] in a straight or forward orientation and a second ejection tray configured to stack [a plurality of] said at least one recording sheet output [sheets] in a reversed orientation.

24. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said [stack of] at least one recording [sheets] sheet stacked in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers is [a stack of recording sheets] recorded in said [single-side] single-sided recording mode.

25. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said [stack of] at least one recording [sheets] sheet stacked in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers is [a stack of recording sheets] recorded in said [double-side] double-sided recording mode.

26. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein either said image reading mechanism reads [an] a first image [on] of said at least one image from a first side of a single-sided original of said at least one original in a [single-side] single-sided reading mode [and] or said image reading mechanism reads first and second images [on both] of said at least one image from first and second sides, respectively, of a double-sided original of said at least one original in a [double-side] double-sided reading mode.

27. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 26, wherein when said first and second images of said at least one image are read in said double-sided reading mode by said image reading mechanism, said image [forming] recording mechanism records said first and second images in said [single-side] single-sided recording mode and outputs said at least one recording sheet in said increasing order of [pages when

said images are read in said double-side reading mode by said reading mechanism] page numbers.

28. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 26, wherein when said first and second images of said at least one image are read in said double-sided reading mode by said image reading mechanism, said image [forming] recording mechanism records said first and second images in said [double-side] double-sided recording mode and outputs said at least one recording sheet in said increasing order of [pages when said images are read in said double-side reading mode by said reading mechanism] page numbers.

29. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 26, wherein said image reading mechanism reads said first and second images of said at least one image on both said first and second sides, respectively, of [a] said double-sided original [through] via a one time sheet transferring process [by moving] in which said [double-side] double-sided original is moved.

30. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 29, wherein said image reading mechanism comprises:

a first image reading unit configured to read [an] said at least one image of [an] said at least one original by moving [the] said at least one original; and

a second image reading unit configured to read [an] said at least one image of [an] said at least one original by holding [the] said at least one original at a predetermined position.

31. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 30, wherein said second image reading unit includes a moving member [that moves] configured

to move under a contact glass[ and is], said moving member being used as a part of said first image reading unit under a condition [in] that said moving member is stopped.

32. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 30, wherein said second image reading unit is usable when [originals are] said at least one original is placed on a sheet tray of said first image reading unit.

33. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 26, wherein said image reading mechanism includes a sheet reversing mechanism [and reads] so that said image reading mechanism reads said first and second images of said at least one image on both said first and second sides, respectively, of [an] said at least one original.

34. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image reading mechanism includes a detector for detecting [an event that an image on reading is of white and cancels reading the image] when [the image is detected as a page of] said at least one image is attempted to be read from a blank white sheet in order to cancel reading of said at least one image.

35. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein one of said plurality of ejection trays is formed in a space between said image reading mechanism and said image [forming] recording mechanism.

36. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image reading mechanism includes [a] an ejected original tray [for ejecting originals] configured to hold ejected ones of said at least one original, said ejected original tray of said image reading mechanism having a size [within] slightly smaller than a projection area of said image forming apparatus.

37. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein [a] said at least one recording sheet is transferred in an approximately straight line

when being transferred from [one] a first sheet cassette of said plurality of sheet cassettes to [one] a first ejection tray of said plurality of ejection trays.

38. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 37, wherein said [one] first sheet cassette of said plurality of sheet cassettes is a manual sheet inserting tray.

39. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, further comprising a control panel located close to said image reading mechanism, said control panel comprising:

a singled-sided/double-sided recording mode selecting mechanism configured to select one of said [single-side] single-sided recording mode and said [double-side] double-sided recording mode; and

[a] an ejection tray selecting mechanism configured to select one of said plurality of ejection trays.

40. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image [forming] recording mechanism [forms images] records said at least one image in an increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers.

41. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image [forming] recording mechanism forms [a plurality of images] said at least one image in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers when said image reading mechanism reads said [plurality of images] at least one image in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

42. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image recording mechanism includes a first image carrying member [has] which is a [property of photoconductivity] photoconductive drum and [said] a second image

carrying member which is a belt-shaped intermediate transfer member having a surface resistance in a range of from  $10^5 \ \Omega$  to  $10^{12} \ \Omega$ .

43. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 42, further comprising a fixing mechanism configured to fix [images] said at least one image which has been attached on both sides of [a] said at least one recording sheet while said at least one recording sheet is being supported by said belt-shaped intermediate transfer member.

44. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 42, wherein said belt-shaped intermediate transfer member is [of] heat [resistance] resistant.

45. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, wherein said image [forming] recording mechanism performs said image recording operation in accordance with image information sent from an external host system, said external host system selecting one of said [single-side] single-sided recording mode and said [double-side] double-sided recording mode [is selected by said external host system,] and one of said plurality of ejection trays[ is selected by said external host system].

46. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 21, further comprising [an] a first external ejection tray unit that includes a first connecting sheet path connected to a sheet path of said image forming apparatus for turning and ejecting [a] said at least one recording sheet sent from said image [forming] recording mechanism into one of said plurality of ejection trays, wherein said first external ejection tray unit [stacks a plurality of] is configured to stack said at least one recording sheet in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

47. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 46, wherein said first connecting sheet path is arranged along an edge portion of said one of said plurality of ejection trays.

48. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 47, further comprising a switching pawl configured to selectively switch between [ways] pathways for [a] said at least one recording sheet to said one of said plurality of ejection trays and said external ejection tray unit.

49. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim 21] claim 46, further comprising [another] a second external ejection tray unit [includes] including a second connecting sheet path connected to a sheet path of said image forming apparatus for ejecting [a] said at least one recording sheet sent from said image [forming] recording mechanism in an approximately straight line manner into said one of said plurality of ejection trays, wherein said second external ejection tray unit [stacks a plurality of] is configured to stack said at least one recording sheet in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

50. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

first image carrying means for carrying [images] at least one image in increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers;

second image carrying means for carrying [an image] said at least one image transferred from said first image carrying means;

a plurality of ejection tray means including first ejection tray means for stacking [a plurality of output sheets] at least one recording sheet onto which said at least one image has been transferred in a straight or forward orientation and second ejection tray means for stacking [a plurality of output sheets] said at least one recording sheet in a reversed orientation; and

sheet transferring means for transferring [a] ~~said at least one~~ recording sheet to a nip formed between said first and second image carrying means, wherein said first image carrying means [is caused to transfer an] ~~transfers a first image of said at least one image~~ to [one] ~~a first~~ surface of said ~~at least one~~ recording sheet and, [at the same time] ~~simultaneously~~, said second image carrying means [is caused to transfer another said] ~~transfers a second image of said at least one image~~ to [another] ~~a second~~ surface of said ~~at least one~~ recording sheet in response to a selection [between] ~~of either of~~ said first and second ejection tray means in a [double-side] ~~double-sided~~ recording mode so that said first and second ejection tray means stack said [plurality of] ~~at least one~~ recording [sheets] ~~sheet~~ in increasing order of [pages] ~~page numbers~~.

51. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 50, further comprising mode selecting means for selecting one of a [single-side] ~~single-sided~~ recording mode and said [double-side] ~~double-sided~~ recording mode.

52. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 50, further comprising tray selecting means for selecting one of said first and second ejection tray means.

53. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 50, further comprising sheet selecting means ~~for~~ selecting a ~~sheet~~ type [of] ~~for said at least one~~ ~~recording~~ sheet, and wherein one of said first and second ejection tray means is selected in accordance with a selection made by said sheet selecting means.

54. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 50, further comprising a plurality of sheet supplying means each for supplying [the] ~~said at least one~~ recording [sheets] ~~sheet~~ to said sheet transferring means.



55. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 54, further comprising cassette selecting means for selecting one of said plurality of sheet supplying means.

56. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 54, further comprising sheet selecting means for selecting a ~~sheet~~ type [of] ~~for said at least one recording~~ sheet, and wherein one of said plurality of sheet supplying means is selected in accordance with a selection made by said sheet selecting means.

57. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 50, further comprising extra sheet supplying means ~~for~~ inserting [a] ~~said at least one~~ recording sheet in an approximately straight ~~or forward~~ orientation, and wherein [a] ~~said at least one~~ recording sheet is transferred from said extra sheet supplying means to said first ejection tray means via said sheet transferring means.

58. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 57, further comprising sheet selecting means ~~for~~ selecting a ~~sheet~~ type [of] ~~for said at least one recording~~ sheet, and wherein said extra sheet supplying means and said first ejection tray means are selected when said sheet selecting means selects [a] ~~said at least one recording sheet to be of said sheet type so as to be a relatively thick sheet.~~

59. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 57, wherein said extra sheet supplying means includes manual sheet insertion tray means.

60. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 59, further comprising sensing means for detecting an event [in that] ~~wherein~~ said manual sheet insertion tray means is accessed by a user, and wherein said extra sheet supplying means and said first ejection tray means are selected when said sensing means detects said event.

61. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 50, wherein said first image carrying means [is caused to transfer an] transfers said at least one image [of] from an odd-numbered page of said at least one original to an upper surface of said at least one recording sheet and, [at the same time] simultaneously, said second [ejection tray] image carrying means [is caused to transfer an] transfers said at least one image [of] from an even-numbered page of said at least one original on a lower surface of said at least one recording sheet when said second ejection tray means is selected in [a] said double-side recording mode so that said second ejection tray means stacks [a plurality of] said at least one recording [sheets] sheet in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

62. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 52, wherein said first image carrying means [is caused to transfer an] transfers said first image of said at least one image to [on one surface] said first surfaces of said at least one recording sheet and said second image carrying means [is caused to transfer another] transfers said second image [on another surface] of said at least one image on said second surfaces of said at least one recording sheet in response to a selection made by said tray selecting means between said first and second ejection tray means.

63. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 51, [wherein said mode selecting means is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said mode selecting means is mounted.

64. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 52, [wherein said tray selecting means is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said tray selecting means is mounted.

65. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 53, [wherein said sheet selecting means is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said sheet selecting means is mounted.

66. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 55, [wherein said cassette selecting means is mounted on] further comprising a control panel [of said apparatus] on which said cassette selecting means is mounted.

67. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 50, [wherein selections of] further comprising an external host system which selects between a [single-side] ~~single-sided~~ recording mode and said [double-side] ~~double-sided~~ recording mode, said first and second ejection tray means, and a ~~sheet~~ type [of] for said at least one recording sheet [are made from an external host system].

68. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 54, [wherein a selection of] further comprising an external host system which makes a selection from among said plurality of sheet supplying means [is made from an external host system].

69. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 50, wherein said image recording mechanism includes a first image carrying means [has], which is a [property of photoconductivity and carries] photoconductive drum, for carrying said at least one image in the form of a toner image made in accordance with an electrophotographic method and said second image carrying means [carries a] for carrying said toner image transferred from said first image carrying means.

70. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
image reading means for reading [an] at least one image from at least one original;  
image [forming] recording means for performing [an] image recording [operation]  
operations including image forming, image carrying, and image transferring processes so that

said at least one image read from said at least one original are recorded onto at least one recording sheet;

a plurality of ejection tray means into which said at least one recording sheet is ejected;

a plurality of sheet cassette means in which said at least one recording sheet is stacked prior to being used in said image recording operations; and

sheet transferring means for transferring [a] said at least one recording sheet from one of said plurality of sheet cassette means to a nip formed between [said] first and second image carrying means, wherein said image [forming] recording means performs said image recording [operation] operations in response to a selection between said plurality of ejection tray means in accordance with [images] said at least one image from [originals] said at least one original read by said image reading means either in a [single-side] single-sided recording mode or [double-side] a double-sided recording mode so that said at least one recording sheet is stacked in said plurality of ejection tray means [stack a stack of recording sheets] in increasing order of [pages] page numbers.

71. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said image [forming] recording means [forms] records said at least one image in the form of a toner image in accordance with an electrophotographic method[ and comprises], said image recording means comprising:

said first image carrying means for forming [a] said toner image and [to carry it] carrying said toner image thereon in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers starting from a first page; and

second image carrying means for carrying [the] said toner image transferred from said first image carrying means, said first image carrying means transferring [the] said toner image

to [one] a first side of a first recording sheet of said at least one recording sheet and said second image carrying means transferring [the] said toner image to [the other] a second side of [the] a second recording sheet of said at least one recording sheet.

72. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said plurality of ejection tray means includes first ejection tray means for stacking [a plurality of] said at least one recording sheet output [sheets] in a straight or forward orientation and a second ejection tray means for stacking [a plurality of ] said at least one recording sheet output [sheets] in a reversed orientation.

73. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said [stack of] at least one recording [sheets]sheet, stacked in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers, is [a stack of recording sheets] recorded in said [single-side] single-sided recording mode.

74. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said [stack of] at least one recording [sheets]sheet, stacked in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers, is [a stack of recording sheets] recorded in said [double-side] double-sided recording mode.

75. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said image reading means reads [an image] said at least one image on a side of a single-sided original in a single-side reading mode and [images] said at least one image on both sides of a double-sided original in a double-side reading mode.

76. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 75, wherein said image [forming] recording means records [images] said at least one image in said [single-side] single-sided recording mode in said increasing order of [pages] page

numbers when said [images are] at least one image is read in said [double-side] double-sided reading mode by said image reading means.

77. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 75, wherein said image [forming] recording means records [images] said at least one image in said [double-side] double-sided recording mode and outputs said at least one image in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers when said [images are] at least one image is read in said [double-side] double-sided reading mode by said image reading means.

78. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 75, wherein said image reading means reads [images] said at least one image on both sides of [a double-sided] said double-sided original [through] via a one time sheet transferring process by moving said [double-side] double-sided original.

79. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 78, wherein said image reading means comprises:

first image reading means for reading [an] said as least one image of [an] said at least one original by moving [the] said at least one original; and

second image reading means for reading [an] said as least one image of [an] said as least one original by holding [the] said as least one original at a predetermined position.

80. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 79, wherein said second image reading means includes moving means for moving under a contact glass[ and is], said second image reading means being used as a part of said first image reading means under a condition in that said moving means is stopped.

81. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 79, wherein said second image reading means is usable when [originals are] said at least one original is placed on a sheet tray of said first image reading means.

82. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 75, wherein said image reading means includes sheet reversing means for reversing [an original and reads images] said at least one original, said image reading means reading said at least one image on both sides of said at least one original.

83. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said image reading means includes detecting means for detecting [an event that an image on reading is of white and cancels] a blank white sheet and canceling reading of [the image when the image is detected as a page of white] said at least one image.

84. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein one of said plurality of ejection tray means is formed in a space between said image reading means and said image [forming] recording means.

85. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said image reading means includes an ejected original tray means for ejecting [originals] said at least one original, said ejected original tray means having a size [within] slightly smaller than a projection area of said image forming apparatus.

86. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein [a] said at least one recording sheet is transferred in an approximately straight line from one of said plurality of sheet cassette means to one of said plurality of ejection tray means.

87. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 86, wherein said one of said plurality of sheet cassette means is a manual sheet inserting tray means.

88. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 70, further comprising control panel means ~~located~~ close to said image reading means, said control panel means comprising:

~~single-sided/double-sided recording mode~~ selecting means for selecting one of said [single-side] ~~single-sided~~ recording mode and said [double-side] ~~double-sided~~ recording mode; and

~~ejection tray~~ selecting means for selecting one of said plurality of ejection tray means.

89. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 70, wherein said image [forming] ~~recording~~ means forms [images] ~~said at least one image~~ in said increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers.

90. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 70, wherein said image [forming] ~~recording~~ means forms [a plurality of images] ~~said at least one image~~ in said increasing order of [pages] ~~page numbers~~ when said image reading means reads said [plurality of images] ~~at least one image~~ in said increasing order of [pages] ~~page numbers~~.

91. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 70, wherein said first image carrying means [has] is a [property of photoconductivity] ~~photoconductive drum~~ and said second image carrying means is belt-shaped intermediate transfer means having a surface resistance in a range of from  $10^5 \Omega$  to  $10^{12} \Omega$ .

92. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 91, further comprising fixing means for fixing images attached on both sides of [a] ~~said at least one~~ recording sheet while said ~~at least one~~ recording sheet is supported by said belt-shaped intermediate transfer means.

93. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 91, wherein said belt-shaped intermediate transfer means is [of] heat [resistance] ~~resistant~~.



94. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, wherein said image [forming] recording means performs said image recording [operation] operations in accordance with image information sent from an external host system, said external host system selecting one of said [single-side] single-sided recording mode and said [double-side] double-sided recording mode [is selected by said external host system,] and one of said plurality of ejection tray means[ is selected by said external host system].

95. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 70, further comprising a first external ejection tray means for stacking [a plurality of] said at least one recording sheet in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers, wherein said first external ejection tray means includes a first connecting sheet path connected to a sheet path of said image forming apparatus for turning and ejecting [a] said at least one recording sheet sent from said image [forming] recording means into one of said plurality of ejection tray means.

96. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 95, wherein said first connecting sheet path is arranged along an edge portion of said one of said plurality of ejection tray means.

97. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim] claim 96, further comprising switching pawl means for selectively switching between [ways] pathways for [a] said at least one recording sheet to said one of said plurality of ejection tray means and said external ejection tray means.

98. (Amended) [An] The image forming apparatus as defined in [Claim 70] claim 95, further comprising [another] a second external ejection tray means for stacking [a plurality of] said at least one recording sheet in said increasing order of [pages] page numbers, wherein said [another] second external ejection tray means includes a second

connecting sheet path connected to a sheet path of said apparatus for ejecting [a] said at least one recording sheet sent from said image [forming] recording means in an approximately straight manner into one of said plurality of ejection tray means.

99. (Amended) A method for image forming, comprising the steps of:

selecting one of a [single-side] single-sided recording mode and a [double-side] double-sided recording mode to record at least one image from at least one original onto at least one recording sheet;

choosing one of a face-down stack and a face-up stack;

inputting a plurality of images in increasing order of [pages] page numbers;

performing a [double-side] double-sided recording operation when said [double-side] double-sided recording mode is selected, said performing step comprising the steps of:

forming two successive images of said at least one image in increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers;

transferring said two successive images of said at least one image onto both surfaces of [a] said at least one recording sheet;

fixing said two successive images of said at least one image attached on said both surfaces of said at least one recording sheet; and

stacking said at least one recording sheet in an orientation in accordance with [a choice] whether said face-down stack or said face-up stack is chosen [by] in said choosing step;

repeating said performing step until said [images] at least one image input by said inputting step are recorded;

executing a [single-side] single-sided recording operation when said [single-side] single-sided recording mode is selected, said executing step comprising the steps of:

forming [an images] said at least one image in increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers;

transferring said at least one image onto one surface of [a] said at least one recording sheet;

fixing said at least one image attached on said [on] one surface of said at least one recording sheet; and

stacking said recording sheet in an orientation in accordance with [a choice] whether said face-down stack or said face-up stack was chosen [by] in said choosing step; and

repeating said executing step until said [images] at least one image input by said inputting step are recorded.

100. (Amended) [An] ~~The~~ method as defined in [Claim] ~~claim~~ 99, wherein said inputting step reads [a plurality of originals] said at least one original and generates data of [a plurality of images] said at least one image.